



Procedure: Competent Professional Authority

Volume: Nutrition Services/Breastfeeding

Section: Services Overview/Staffing

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Purpose

To ensure that determination of medical/nutritional risk and prescription of supplemental foods are provided by qualified individuals in accordance with federal regulations and standards.

Definition

Competent Professional Authority (CPA) means an individual on the staff of the local agency authorized to determine nutritional risk and prescribe supplemental foods.

Qualifications

Persons authorized to serve as a Competent Professional Authority include:

1. Registered Dietitians (RD)
2. Nutritionists (Bachelor's or Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences, Community Nutrition, clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition or Home Economics/Consumer & Family Sciences with emphasis in nutrition)
3. Eligible for Registration with the American Dietetic Association Commission on Dietetic Registration
4. Registered Nurses (RN) with current Nebraska license
5. Physicians/Physician's Assistants (PA), certified by the State of Nebraska Licensure Board.

The professional qualifications of these individuals must be documented in the local agency annual plan and available for review at Nutrition Services monitoring visits.

Requirement for Registered Dietitian

Each local agency is required to have on staff a minimum of one CPA that is a registered dietitian (RD) or masters-level nutritionist.

- Alternatively, a person with RD qualifications may be retained as a consultant.

Other Qualifications for Position of WIC CPA

The following qualifications represent State or locally medically trained individuals who may serve as a CPA:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 15 hours of course work in human nutrition.
2. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 9 hours of course work in human nutrition **and** 2 years of work experience related to nutrition education. (such as WIC, EFNEP, community health educator)
3. Baccalaureate degree from and accredited college or university **and** completion of competency based training program operated by a WIC State Agency **and** a minimum of 2 years work experience as a WIC CPA.
4. Registered Dietetic Technician – DTR
5. Licensed Practical Nurse with current Nebraska license

Questions

If a WIC local agency has questions regarding the qualifications of a specific individual, please contact the State WIC Director or State WIC Nutrition Coordinator for assistance.
